



NEWS RELEASE

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ANDREA SILBERT, FOUNDER AND CEO OF THE CENTER FOR WOMEN & ENTERPRISE, WINS SBA AWARD

BOSTON – Andrea Silbert, founder and chief executive officer of the Center for Women & Enterprise, Inc., has been named the 2004 Massachusetts Women in Business Advocate by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) according to an announcement made by Mark S. Hayward, Acting Massachusetts SBA District Director.

The Women in Business Advocate award is presented annually to an individual who has fulfilled a commitment to the advancement of women's business ownership.

“The SBA Advocate awards honor the best small business has to offer, and Andrea Silbert is an outstanding choice,” said SBA Regional Administrator Jeffrey Butland.

“This is an outstanding testimonial, not only to her accomplishments, but to her commitment and dedication to small business success and community service as well. I join my SBA colleagues in congratulating Andrea on this significant achievement.”

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Andrea Silbert founded the Center for Women & Enterprise, Inc. in 1995. CWE, SBA's official women's business center in Massachusetts, is a non-profit whose mission is to empower women to become economically self-sufficient and prosperous through entrepreneurship. With offices in Boston, Worcester and Providence, CWE provides education, training, technical assistance, and access to capital to ensure that all women, regardless of their economic status, have the opportunity to start and run their own businesses. Since its inception, CWE has served over 6,500 women in Massachusetts and Rhode Island and fostered the creation of 3,290 net new jobs, which in turn have generated approximately \$114 million in wages. As a non-profit charitable organization, CWE provides its service on a sliding scale basis in order to serve all women.

“Andrea Silbert Lane exemplifies the talent, business savvy, vision, and commitment required to be a recognized leader in the Massachusetts business arena,” said Acting SBA Director Hayward. “She has created one of the best SBA women's business centers in the country because of her determination to see women business owners succeed.”

Silbert will be honored at an awards breakfast on June 10, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. The Massachusetts Small Business Person of the Year, Larry O'Toole, president of Somerville-based Gentle Giant Moving Company, Inc., will also be honored along with eight other small businesses and champions from throughout the state. The event is open to the public and those interested in attending should contact Christine Carter at SBA at 617-565-5560.

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